ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Passing on I now come to the departments like General Administration, Finance and Accounts, and Miscellaneous.

General Administration.—As compared with the Revised estimate (Rs. 3·53 lakhs) the Budget for the coming year anticipates a saving of Rs. 0·34 lakhs due to the absence of any provision for the loan floatation as in the current year. The strengthening of the Secretariat to meet the growing needs of the times is expected to involve larger expenditure. The scheme of Post-War reconstruction which has been looming large everywhere in recent years has been duly taken up by the State also and a Deputy Secretary has been newly appointed to tackle this question. A beginning has thus been made and we request for the hearty co-operation of the House in solving the varied and important problems which may confront the State in the wake of the War.

Finance and Accounts forms as it were the nerve centre of the administration and to adequately watch the evergrowing expenditure of the Supply and other departments the audit staff had to be strengthened. A test audit of the accounts relating to grant-in-aid which involves an expenditure of over Rs. 10 lakhs is proposed for the coming year and hence the provision for a Superintendent and a staff for 6 months.

Miscellaneous.—Under this are included many sundry heads of expenditure that have had to be provided on account of the War, as A.R.P., War Publicity, National War Front, Civil Supplies, etc. The formation of the Cochin State Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmens' Board to help the dependants of our people disabled in Military duty has necessitated separate provision. The A.R.P. measures have been reduced to the minimum requirements and hence a sum of Rs. 1·08 lakhs alone is estimated for the coming year as against Rs. 3·78 lakhs and Rs. 2·18 lakhs in the Budget and Revised estimates of the current year. The activities of the Food Supply department involve in all an expenditure of Rs. 6·84 lakhs against Rs. 3·28 lakhs budgetted for the current year and against Rs. 5·32 lakhs under the Revised estimate. The magnitude of the operations of the department can well be visualised if it is realised that it employs over 1,100 persons involving a commitment of Rs. 3·51 lakhs under establishment charges alone. The Excise preventive staff also had to be considerably strengthened in the course of the year to man the frontier outposts. The staff for the control and distribution of standard cloth is proposed to be continued in the coming year.

A sum of Rs. 50,000 was provided in this year's Budget for Beggar Relief. With this amount three Beggar Relief Homes were started one at Vyttila, one at Palluruthi and the last one at Ramavarmapuram. Pending the materialisation of the general scheme of beggar relief based on the Beggar Relief Committee Report which is engaging the earnest consideration of the Government and on which necessary legislation will soon be engaging your attention these three beggar homes have to be continued in 1120 also. It is for this that the sum of Rs. 50,000 has been included in the Budget estimate.

DEVELOPMENT AND NATION BUILDING SERVICES

Agriculture, Panchayats and Industries.—With a view to ensure quick and equitable distribution of manure for which a provision of Rs. 2·00 lakhs has been made under "Advances" the term of the Special Manure staff is proposed to be extended. To improve the poor quality and breed of the cattle in the State, stud bulls of good variety have to be stationed in all the Villages and hence a tentative extra provision of Rs. 5,000 has been made for the purpose. The grades of pay of the Agriculture Inspectors and some of the staff are proposed to be revised. Tobacco cultivation is to be started on an experimental scale.

Panchayats get an increased allotment of Rs. 4·22 lakhs. 20 new libraries are proposed to be started in 1120. More intensive irrigation measures will be taken up with the special contribution of Rs. 1·75 lakhs.

Industries.—The development of cottage industries continues to engage the attention of the department. The manufacture of hand made paper continues; the Rural Development Centre at Cherpu is being developed as a bee-hive of rural industries.

Education.—In the course of my Budget remarks last year I referred to the alarming growth of expenditure on Education and the problem which Government may have to face in postwar years when the present larger revenue from Forests, Income-tax and Excise may disappear.

The total expenditure on Education is estimated at Rs. 32·38 lakhs which exceeds the Revised estimate by Rs 6·73 lakhs and the Budget estimate of 1119 by Rs. 9·53 lakhs. The most important item contributing to the abnormal increase is the provision of Rs. 4 lakhs

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for noon-day feeding of poor children; the contribution to be made by Government is one-third of the actual expenditure and the gross cost is estimated at Rs. 12 lakhs. The Government Training Institution has been recoganised; the system of physical training and the provision of playing fields in schools is proposed to be extended and continued. To cope with the increasing work of the department a new division of Inspectorate with staff is proposed to be created from 1120.

Medical, Ayurveda and Public Health Departments which are in charge of the health of the people receive enhanced allotments in the comming year. Some of the important features of the medical Budget which exceeds the Revised estimste of Rs. 8·0 lakhs by Rs. 1·09 lakhs are the revision of pay of the nursing staff, the creation of the post of an Assistant Surgeon for the Ophthalmatic department and for the Mental Hospital, entertainment of a further batch of pupil nurses and additional servants, the proposed higher training of nurses at Delhi, the large provision of about Rs. 0·16 lakh for improvement to Kuriarkutty Dispensary and the provision for intensifying the Hookworm campaign.

Ayurveda is undergoing steady expansion. A special contribution of Rs. 10,000 is allotted for improving the buildings for the manufacturing section. Five more Vaidyasalas are to be opened for which there is a lump provision of Rs. 3,870 and the pay of some of the posts of the department is to be revised. The Senior Physican at Ernakulam and the Taluk Phpsicans will be pleased on a better scale of pay and the two Honorary nursing sisters attached to the Ernakulam Hospital will be getting an honorarium of Rs 25 each per mensem. The Hospitals at places other than Trichur will also thus become gradualy fully equipped and medical aid of a fairly high order will be made available in all parts of the State.

Public Health continues to receive the earnest attention of Government and it has been possible to curb in the initial stage itself the occasionally threatening outbreaks of epidemics. Mosquito control operations in the two major towns of Ernakulam and Mattancheri are to be strengthened with the creation of the new post of Malariologist. I may recount here the various measures attempted to improve the standard of Public Health. Provision is made for entertaining more midwives so as to have one midwife for each Panchayat area; two Health Centres are to be started at a cost of Rs. 10,000 one at Cranganur and the other at Ollur, two candidates are proposed to be sent for advanced training in the Lady Reading Health School, New Delhi and the hookworm menace at Cranganur is to be rooted out for which a large provision of over Rs. 11,000 is made. As regards administrative reforms mention may be made of the revision of the scale of pay of Health Officers to a grade on a par with Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons of the Medical Department with a compensatory allowance in lieu of private practice, grant of allowances to the Medical Officer for Epidemics and the two Lady Medical Officers of Maternity and Childwelfare Centre, entertainment of a Manager on Rs. 100—150, a Statistician on Rs. 60—100 and strengthening of the establishment of the office of the Director.

Public Works.—Difficulties in executing works of large magnitude are well known in these days of scarcity of labour and material and the high tender rates. Nevertheless "Public Works" gets decent allotments (Rs. 21·50 lakhs) though new works have been reduced to the minimum. Keeping the non-escapability criterion in the forefront, only essential works of urgency are taken. Maintenance works are continued on the same high level of efficiency and a sum of Rs. 4 lakhs is provided in lump over and above the usual allotment to cover the extra cost. With this it is hoped that our roads will be put in proper order, able to stand the heavy traffic that now passes through them. Liberal provisions have been made for irrigation works with a view to aid more extensive cultivation. The more important original works under irrigation are.—

(*i*) Extension of Ayacut under Manapat Chira.
(*ii*) Mullurkayal Reservoir scheme.
(*iii*) Lift Irrigation works in Chalakkudi River.
(*iv*) Chalakkudi Irrigation scheme.
(*v*) Thanikudam scheme.
(*vi*) Putting up groynes in coastal areas.

The successful completion of these schemes will go a great way in solving the food problem of the State and it is fervently hoped that Nature will aid our efforts to realise the desired result.

SOCIO ECONOMIC

The Socio economic services like Co-operation and Uplift of the Depressed Classes have got their due place in the Budget before you. Much is expected of Co-operation in the matter of judicious distribution of the essentials of life in these days of acute shortage and in the days

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